Boston September 9. 1860

Ans
1.98

L. Maria Child

Dear Friend,

Your letter of Aug: 31, was duly rec.d requesting me to give you some facts about Thomas Sims, I will do so with pleasure – Sims was a mulatto man about 23 years of age, a mason by trade; he was claimed by James Potter of Savannah as his slave – was arrested in Boston on the 10th of April 1851 by the notorious Asa O Butman & other Policeman then in the employ of the City authorities of Boston, who at the time, falsely charged him with stealing a watch – none of the U.S. Officers assisted in the arrest of Sims – he was imprisoned in the City Court House. had what was called his trial there, after which the whole Police force of the City under the command of the City Marshall took him down the Long Whf, & put him on board the Brig Acorn. Capt. Coombs bound for Savannah – the Mayor of the City gave orders to have a regiment of Infantry on duty quartered in Faneuil Hall, commanded by Gen.l Edmands, (a member of the Baptist Church,) and also 1500 of the first Merchants & others. volunteers to assist Marshall Tukey. This Reg.t was derisively called, & long known as the Sims Brigade.

These facts of the rendition of Sims, are more fully & minutely stated in the testimony of Mayor Bigelow, Marshal Tukey and others, taken under oath before a committee of the Legislature, (see the Senate document of the Mass.tts Legislature No 89: also the annual report of the City Auditor for 1851-52 Page 48. which states that it cost the City 2996.95 dollars to enslave Sims.

In less than three months after, these same City authorities celebrated the Declaration made at Philadelphia on the fourth of July 1776, to wit.

92

"that all men are born free & equal" by Oration, Feasting, senti-
ment & Song, by ringing Church bells, firing of cannon & the explosion
of fireworks — That crop of hypocricy cost the City 6.935 9/
dollars, as may be seen on the 10th page of the City Auditors repo[rt]
before referred to — page 10 and 48 in that City document, give
the lie to each other flatly & costly. At the time of the rendition
of Sims, money enough was raised & pledged to ransom him, but
Mr Potter refused to sell him at any price, he demanded that the law
should be executed, & Sims should go back — he wanted to humble Boston
& he did most thoroughly — A single Slaveholder of Savannah had all the
City officials & Police force of the City, a Regiment of troops & 1500 volun[teers]
of the first merchants & others harnessed to his work at their own cost, and he
spurned their money. In the Brig Acorn went ~~poor~~ Sims ~~g~~
guarded by Deputy Marshall Riley, & seven other Slave hounds, nam[ed]
Byrnes, Sawin, Russell, Coolidges, Clark, True, & Dolliver — they
delivered their prey to Mr. Bacon, Potters overseer; he did not con-
-descend to speak to them. Sims was taken to jail, whipt & kept
in prison three months, & became sick. — The Physician, who attended the inmates of the jail, told Mr Potter that Sims woul[d]
die if he was kept much longer in prison — he was then taken out and
sent into the Country, where he soon recovered, & hired out to work at his
trade, with a man who treated him very badly, when Sims requested
his Master to sell him — runaway slaves being very unsaleable, where known
he was sent to Charleston S. C. & consigned to one Mordecai a Jew broker for
sale, who held him at 1200 dollars for some time without finding a purchaser.
at length Mordecai bought him & shipt him to New Orleans on speculation.

Ms. A. 5.1 p. 92

He was there sold to a man in Vicksburg a mason, and Sims acts as his Boss & is an expert bricklayer-

While Sims was on sale in Charleston William I. Stevens of N. H. then doing business in Charleston had several interviews with Sims & became much attached to him, & had laid plans for his escape from slavery, but before they could be carried out, he was sent to New Orleans: These facts about Sims after he landed in Savannah, I had from Mr. Stevens, a very reliable & intelligent man, who now lives in West Newton Street, & is a partner in business with my brother Edmund Jackson in this City.

Mrs Cornelia Sykes own sister of Sims now lives at No. 28 Irving street, she corresponds with Sims, - she has shown me one of Sims letters dated at Vicksburg Septr. 1859. from which I made the following extract "I hope you will remember me to those dear friends in Boston whose hearts bled with sorrow when I was sent away from that City, which I hope to reach again one day, if God spares my life, and join hands with them & struggle for my right to freedom - I am under a thousand obligations to them, for their kindness to me in the hours of my deepest distress - I hope I may yet have an opportunity to recompense them. I am constantly watched and opressed by the man who owns me, which makes my chances of escape very small - I don't think he would sell me for less than about 1500. or 1800 dollars - Yet I do live in hopes of seeing those friends in Boston again." Since Senator Masons Fugitive bill was enacted in 1850, three fugitive Slaves have been arrested in Boston, Shadrach, Sims & Burns; Shadrach was rescued & Burns has been ransomed - Sims had as good a right to live in Boston as ever I had; are those who enslaved him going to let him die in Slavery, & they in their sins? and go up to judgment leaving their inhuman doings unaltered & unrepented of?

10r

Ever Yours Francis Jackson

Ms. A.5.1 p. 92

Ms. A. 5.1 p. 93